

## PUBLIC HEARING

MAY 13, 2015

A public hearing of the Council of the County of Kaua'i was called to order by Arryl Kaneshiro, Chair, Budget & Finance Committee, on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, at 5:00 p.m., at the Council Chambers, 4396 Rice Street, Suite 209, Līhu'e, Kaua'i, and the presence of the following was noted:

Honorable Mason K. Chock  
Honorable Gary L. Hooser  
Honorable Ross Kagawa  
Honorable KipuKai Kuali'i  
Honorable Mel Rapozo  
Honorable JoAnn A. Yukimura  
Honorable Arryl Kaneshiro

The Clerk read the notice of the public hearing on the following:

"Resolution No. 2015-26 – RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE REAL PROPERTY TAX RATES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016 FOR THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I,"

which was ordered to print by the Council of the County of Kaua'i on March 25, 2015, and published in The Garden Island newspaper on April 1, 2015.

SCOTT K. SATO, Deputy County Clerk: We have one registered speaker and that is Felicia Cowden.

The hearing proceeded as follows:

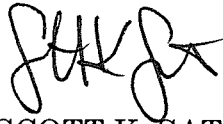
FELICIA COWDEN: I am going to speak to the general look at real property taxes. In the past year, we have spoken to how important it is to renovate the whole system and I want to underscore that that is a very strident need. Certainly, for this next tax year, we are too close to the date to be able to do that renovation, but I think we should be positioning ourselves for exactly that. Currently, we are basically filling our County coffers with placing our highest tax on the non-resident investor. That is much higher, I think that you can see in areas like where I live on the North Shore. We are having an influx of very, very wealthy...and there is another development intended to market to ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) a unit that is high. It might feel good that we are sticking it to the people that have it to pay who do not even live there, that is called taxation without representation, but my warning is that we do not become dependent on that. When we have an area like...I do not even want to single one out, but when we have big purchases for a lot of money with people who do not even use the services, of course that feels good, but we will want more of that. That is a trend that is happening in the world, in these high desired places. My worry is that Kaua'i risks becoming like Lāna'i, a place where the rich live and those who serve them. When I even hear terms like "workforce housing," I cringe a little bit because that is like putting the residents to a service modality and we might think that there can be collateral damage like the Po'ipū area or Hanalei, but it is going to creep and crossover. I live in those areas and I do not want to be the collateral damage. I know that it is like holding back the tide because we have this

disparity happening globally. We have high wealth that is coming and landing here, but we really need to look at how we do this stuff and not just be doing ad valorem taxing. We need to get a consultant or somebody from somewhere else where it is working, so we do not basically have residents who can no longer that can afford to be here. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Thank you. Anyone else in the audience wishing to testify on this?

There being no further testimony on this matter, the public hearing adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SK SATO', with a stylized flourish at the end.

SCOTT K. SATO  
Deputy County Clerk

:dmc